9/14/71

Dear Gary,

The books arrived in first-class shape today and with a bomus-all those stampswere uncancelled. I'll use them again, of course, and I'm delighted tou used stamps of small denomination. Every time I spend $8.00 for a role it is a wrench.

As you asked, I'll tell you the amount you owe us after cerditing what you returned. Lil will figure that in a few moments. But she has already told me of a slight error in it. The discrepancy between the bill we have sent you and the adjusted bill we will not send is a small amount in your favor because postage was a little less than she had computed. She noted the difference on our copy of the bill she sent for this moment, when we settle. And another bonus: you have increased my stock of O in NO by a third. It is out of print and I'm refusing to sell copies except at the cost of xerox replacement, reserving the few I have for those who have real need for them. I have one library that wants the xerox copy, and the prof. who made a deal with me to supply me with a xerox master in return for two copies has not responded to my last three or four inquiries. My next one will be one he'll remember.

Ned will be here late tomorrow night. I look forward to it. He will read the new last part of PM. I think it is dynamite, what we have to this moment never had. I'm cleaning up odds and ends of things until he gets here and then, with suggestions he is to have made, I'll begin cutting the first part. While none of it is not worthwhile, much is unnecessary and often out-of-place in the book as it now stands. And, alas, it will still be a long one. They I have to defang parts of what was III. I hate to have to do both things because I'd rather be writing more. And each change means much work if we are to preserve a master that can be shot for offset, should that become possible. With my experiences with O&D, who have beat me out of about half of the "advance" and have invented non-existent charges to assess, all the limitations and disadvantages of a private printing seem less unattractive. But, this time, if it can be done, there are fewer talk shows, fewer people who can do the fine pr work you and others did, and I'll have to find newx ways of exploiting the news. I've been working on some which serve other purposes.

If you recall the original of COUP, then you may recall that recent developments were foreseen by an aging seer who did not so conceive himself. It is no joy to have had such clear vision. God knows what will happen. Almost in anticipation I also addressed this in the last part of PM, what Lil is now typing, in a different context, the pronouncements from the mout of the laws by Burger and Mitchell. The new law, the wrong intereretations of the Constitution. We'll correct all t at now and then there will be no lost time with frills, the Atticas will be restocked, the San Quentins toughened up a bit, and once again this will be the best of possible worlds. Take comfort, friend. Besides, this will drive so many fine young people up the closest wall you'll soon have a practise that with half your work free will soon make you rich.

While I am in this bitter mood, from the endless invention of new evils before the previous has been dimmed and from the pressing money problems all the crooks have caused me-even the insane Penn refuses to pay what he owes, such people as the Freep and the San D committee people, like him, do not even answer letters- let me ask if you have heard from Mary. I'll take your silence as negative so you won't have to write needlessly. She has not told me but Buck is in bad shape. Bud told me. They were due to spend part of last month here and she hasn't even written. Lil had made an afghan for her. I hestitate to write and ask...Lil has just brought me the corrected bill. The change is in the original total, now $84.64. It had been about a buck more...It is about supper time and although we've had a fair amount of rain-the pool is 6" higher - and it has turned cooler, we're going to see if we can take a short swim. Hope you are well, working your schedule out, and happy.

Best,